



MEETING MINUTES

Chief's Advisory Committee (In-Person)

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Welcome to Committee by Chief Páez

Chief Páez welcomed the committee and thanked all for coming together again. Dwayne Maynard thanked all for coming out tonight and shared some thoughts regarding events of the past few weeks and the importance for the committee coming together. He shared the following events: Friday 11/19/2021 Kyle Rittenhouse, not guilty verdict; verdict in the Ahmaud Arbery case, Travis McMichael, Gregory McMichael and William Bryan, Jr., were all found guilty on 11/24/2021 ; indictment of former FCSO Deputy Jason Meade in the shooting death of Casey Goodson, Jr., there are no witnesses and there is no body camera footage as the Sheriff's Department does not have them at this point; his hope is that this is something the commission looks into. There was an officer involved shooting in Columbus that happened today out of an accident investigation, officers returned gunfire and the gunman fled on foot. Lastly, the school shooting involving a 15 year old who killed four students at his high school in Michigan; this brings up thoughts about the SROs in our schools and mental health issues. He believes it is time to continue the work the committee is doing and push forward in building bridges between the community and department.

Dwayne Maynard deferred to Chief Páez to call roll for the meeting.

Committee members present: W. Dwayne Maynard, Yanling Yin, Isao Shoji; Police Department members present: Chief Justin Páez, Lt. Nick Tabernik, Lt. Greg Lattanzi, Amber McCloskey, Tom Gallagher and PIO Rebecca Myers
Minutes by: Becky Metcalf

Committee Business

- **Attendance**

Chief Páez called roll for the meeting:

Judge Dwayne Maynard - present

Isao Shoji – present

Susan Ortega - present

Yanling Yin – present

Cameron Justice – not present

Ajmeri Hoque – not present

Imran Malik – not present

Stella Villalba – not present

- **Review/Amend/Adopt Last Meeting's Minutes**

Adoption of minutes from the September 7, 2021 and October 26, 2021 meetings were held for the next meeting to give all the opportunity to review and have a quorum available for approval.

Chief Updates

Chief Páez provided an update on the absence of Director Somerville. He has been away from the office for several weeks and will be away for an unknown amount of time due to a personal matter. Dwayne Maynard recognized and wished Director Somerville a speedy recovery and lifted him up in prayer.

Old Business

Dwayne Maynard opened the floor to the group to address any old business and to review past community events and CALEA.

Chief Páez provided information about the CALEA process, which covered both Communications and Law Enforcement. The assessors conducted their final exit interview at the conclusion of the process and offered slight feedback none of which inhibits the department's ability to be accredited again. They were very impressed with our progress in community diversity. Their final report has not yet been received but he will be excited to share with the committee when it is received. The department will be officially approved for reaccreditation, at the upcoming CALEA Conference in March 2022, before an accreditation panel. Susan Ortega asked how many years the department has been accredited to which the Chief advised since 1989; this is the 10th and NRECCs first reaccreditation.

Lt. Tabernik thanked Susan Ortega for her assistance and advised the committee about the progress of the department's wellness program.

Dwayne Maynard also brought up the Suicide Townhall and asked for any feedback that was received. Lt. Lattanzi commented and thanked Susan Ortega and Syntero for their topics of discussion. There were at least 30 vendors offering information to the community. Approximately 75-100 in attendance and this serves as a stepping-stone to continue the conversation with the community in 2022. Susan Ortega spoke about the influence of technology, how to use technology safely, and how to be an approachable parent so their young person can come to them to ask questions; they made great community connections. Additionally, Rebecca Myers advised that they have been working on a resource guide to make available on the website.

Isao Shoji asked about lock boxes and their use. Lt. Lattanzi advised that the lockboxes are designed to limit access to lethal means, does not necessarily have to be a firearm. They are available free to the community and can be picked up at the police department. Syntero also partners with Public Health and offers the lock boxes.

Dwayne Maynard asked about overdose prevention centers, how does that tie into suicide prevention with a focus toward schools mostly. Lt. Tabernik advised that the SROs teach a prevention piece, which allows the officer to get closer to the students so that they are comfortable and more apt to come to them. Dwayne Maynard asked how do we as a community help those students who are using, feeling hopelessness, how can law enforcement potentially help in the process. Lt. Tabernik advised that the department is very focused on providing victims drug overdose resources. Sgt. Gallagher introduced himself and spoke about the Community Impact Unit. He was on a call today with Franklin County Addiction Planning and CAFCAP Columbus focusing on how first responders can help to prevent and get those people connected too; they are working together to make resources available to all at all times.

Chief's Update to Committee

Rebecca Myers spoke about the upcoming Fill-A-Cruiser event; it is a drive thru gift drop off running from 10am-1pm on December 4, 2021 in partnership with Get Behind the Badge, which supports families of first responders. Lt. Tabernik commented about the success of the event last year and he expects a great response from the community. Additionally, there is a Heroes and Helpers (Shop with a Cop) event upcoming where individual children were identified by Dublin Schools, generally officers shop with the kids, however this year Target will supply gifts and the department in partnership with our DCPAAA and Target will host an event closer to Christmas Day at the Rec Center so it's not the traditional event this year

Lt. Tabernik advised that the department will host a Personal Safety Session. Vincent Wong had brought some events/issues of Asian hate to the department's attention that he has received from the community and they reached out to partner with the police department for some education. Lt. Tabernik reiterated if members of the community are fearful or have experienced issues of Asian hate or any other concerns in the past they are welcome to join the open Zoom link on December 8, 2021 7pm-8pm; a flyer will go out and the zoom link can support 500.

Rebecca Myers will send out information to all partners regarding the Safe Space program and advised that the program wants to be inclusive and is for everybody. Safe Space locations initially will be located at the police department and all fire stations. She advised that they will also develop foundational training for all members at these Safe Space locations. Additional partners of the program include Rainbow Dublin, some connectivity with the school system via Dr. Hamilton. She is leaving Dublin City Schools but will identify someone to continue the partnership. Safe Space is mindful of the needs presently and will provide safe spaces into the future. Rebecca Myers deferred to Officer McCloskey for her input. Officer McCloskey advised that they are starting small, but as it expands, they want to see businesses getting involved. They will grow from there and see how it goes; another key piece is that some people are afraid to ask for help, and that they are fearful of police departments, in whatever city, and don't always want police there when they need help. Safe Space will give partners a list of resources, contacts if they encounter someone in crisis or in need of assistance. The group is currently working on building the mission and foundation of the program.

Chief Páez advised that a Community Inclusion Advisory Committee (CIAC) will take place of the City's Community Task Force. Chief's Advisory Committee Recruitment – we will publish that we are seeking new members; the information will be published on the website and will also announce the CIAC. The City Manager desires to have both the CAC and CIAC with very diverse representation. Rebecca Myers will send out information on where the applications are available.

Dwayne Maynard asked if any current community partner has issue with he and Ajmeri being involved in the upcoming selection process; if so please reach out to either he or Ajmeri or to contact the chief.

Roundtable Discussion

No CAC members present had any additional information to share during roundtable.

Officer Wellness

Lt. Tabernik gave an overview about the department's wellness committee; the committee is a peer support group with representatives from all membership of the department; started in October 2020 providing emotional, financial, occupational, and spiritual support. Financial perspective – financial resources available include but are not limited to BMI, Ohio Police and Fire, etc... and making those more readily available to members; physical wellness - he and Cpl. Traves have received proposals from three different hospital groups regarding overall physical wellness and professionals to assist them; social wellness – the department recently hosted a picnic but it was not as well attended as they had hoped; spiritual wellness - our most tenured chaplain is leaving next year, with his departure brought on a new chaplain Eric Tober; spiritual wellness is not just about religion.

Lt. Tabernik reviewed the Peer Support and Assistance Team Policy with the group. Members of the group are voluntary members. Susan Ortega asked about onboarding for family members. Lt. Tabernik advised that we do not have that but that is a great suggestion. He spoke about the S.T.A.R. App available to all members of the department; it is a mental health resource app for first responders thru Accentus Health and is customized for our department. The app is 100% confidential support for our members offering a mental health assessment and available resources. He advised that the help resource is very beneficial; provides 24-hour services including financial and many other valuable resources. Yanling Yin commented that some companies offer Mental Health Days for their employees.

Lt. Tabernik provided information about the Metro Peer Consortium – he has been working with surrounding suburbs over the past six months to develop a metro peer support team; the team would provide critical incident debriefing, a one on one connection for peer support, etc...and would be very beneficial for smaller departments. The team hopes to be comprised of approximately 20 members from surrounding suburbs, including but not limited to: Gahanna, Reynoldsburg, Grove City, Hilliard, and Dublin and would also have a clinician available to assist the team.

Public Commentary

There was no public commentary.

Dwayne Maynard provided some closing comments. He advised that the committee may need to revisit some of the discussion from the past month and this evening when more members are available and thanked the department and community members for their input. With no other business to discuss, Dwayne Maynard moved for adjournment. Isao Shoji moved for adjournment and Yanling Yin seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was officially adjourned at 7:30 PM.

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